



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary' - Vince Lombardi

Term 4 Week 6 – 6th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, principals and senior leaders farewelled **Mr Bill Dixon**, Executive Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns (CEDC). Bill, who has lead Catholic Education in Cairns for the past ten years, will retire at the end of the year. During Bill's tenure, many forward-thinking initiatives have been implemented. Many of these have provided great financial support for parents seeking a Catholic education for their children including reduced fees for Concession Card Holders and reduced fees for our small, rural schools. On behalf of our school community, I express my deepest thanks to Bill for his inspiring leadership and wish him a retirement filled with God's blessings.



Our P&F is now running their annual lamington drive. The lamingtons are made by parents on the day of delivery (Thursday, 21st November) and are always delicious. I recommend keeping a dozen or two in the freezer for those days you want an easy treat for yourself or the kids. Community members can order their lamingtons through school families or at the school office. Orders are due on Thursday 14th November.

Over the past weeks, I have been reviewing our School Annual Improvement Plan (SAIP) with teachers and consultants from CEDC. While not all data for thorough analysis is available yet, I am pleased with the progress we have made towards achieving our goals to date. Goals for 2025 are now under construction. Always at the centre of mind when creating our goals is **student well-being and learning**. I look forward to communicating more about our SAIP in the future.

Planning for **classes in 2025** is also underway. I ask parents to notify me if there will be a change in family circumstances that will impact on their child's enrolment at St John's next year. If you know any families considering St John's for their children in 2025, please encourage them to call the school office to organise a tour of our school. Alternatively, they can submit an online enrolment through our school website. For Prep students, draw parents' attention to the dates for our Pre-Prep and Bump-Up mornings (see Diary Dates adjacent). Attendance on these days will help their transition to "big school".

Our last five weeks of 2024 will be over before we know it. We have many important events coming up, so please ensure you have them marked on your calendars. The first major whole school event will be the disco on Friday 22nd November from 6pm. Dinner options will be shared closer to the date. I'm very excited about wearing my FLURO!

Thank you to parents and students who have supported our **Book Fair** this week. Reading remains an important factor of success at school and children are always very excited to purchase books from the fair. Take time to browse the collection. It's a great opportunity to purchase some Christmas presents.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.

Diary Dates

Monday 4 – 8th November

◆ Book Fair

Wednesday 6th November

◆ Fear less with Miss Jo

Friday 8th November

◆ Assembly

Monday 11th November

◆ Remembrance Day

Wednesday 13th November

◆ Fear less with Miss Jo

Thursday 14th November

◆ Final orders for lamington drive

Friday 15th November

◆ Billy Slater League Tag

Tuesday 19th November

◆ Pre Prep morning

Wednesday 20th November

◆ Fear less with Miss Jo

Thursday 21st November

◆ Lamington delivery

Friday 22nd November

◆ Assembly

◆ School Disco

Tuesday 26th November

◆ Whole school swimming

Thursday 28th November

◆ Christmas Concert

◆ Whole school swimming

Friday 29th November

◆ Playgroup/Kindy/P/1/2 Christmas Concert

CONTACT DETAILS

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www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au

www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood

Always Reaching For New Heights 

APRE News

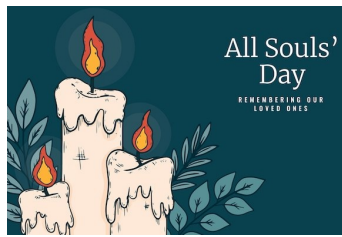
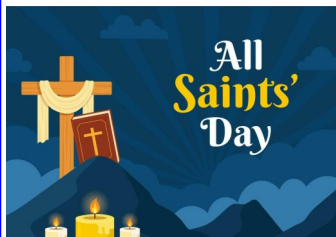
Thank you to all parents and students who attended our final Parish School Mass of the year. It was a lovely mass and all the students did us proud.



For **World Mission Month** we raised a pleasing amount for Catholic Mission with our Zooper Dooper sales, donations from families, Crazy Sock Day, and most recently our 'Guess the Lollies in the Jar' competition.

The **Justice Squad** will continue selling Zooper Doopers for 50c every Tuesday at second break. All funds now will go towards our St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. As part of this appeal please **consider sending in non-perishable food items or a wrapped gift for a child** (labelled girl or boy and age). Our donations will be given to representatives from St Vincent de Paul at our end of year Mass in Week 10.

The month of November began with **All Saints' Day** – a day when we honour all the saints - known & unknown. **All Souls' Day** was on the 2nd of November and is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed.



Prayer for All Saints and All Souls

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints.

I desire one day to join in their company, worshipping you forever in Heaven.

Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ.

Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

P&F Lamington Drive

Our yearly lamington drive is on! The families of our school will be out in the community selling our famous lamingtons. **A dozen lamingtons are selling for \$18.00.** You can also call into the school office to place your order. Orders will be taken until Thursday 14th November. Lamingtons will be made and **ready for collection on Thursday 21st November.** Grab a dozen or two to pop into the freezer for when friends call in for a cuppa. Thank you to the community for your continued support! Thank you, also, to the volunteers who will be lending a hand to make these.



Lest we forget

Remembrance Day-Lest We Forget **Monday 11th November**

This is a memorial day observed every year on 11th November to mark the anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 that ended fighting in World War 1. It honours all the members of the

armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Hostilities ended 'at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918'.

Book Fair - Week 6

Book Fair has arrived and is available for viewing in the hall all week. Come and browse the amazing selection of books on sale. The Fair will be **open every day this week from 8:00am to 8:35am and 3:00pm to 3:30pm.** Purchases can be made by cash, EFTPOS or via the QR code reader. This is always a great opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts! Commission of sales go towards purchasing more titles for our school library.

St John's Parish Christmas Gathering

The Parish annual Christmas gathering will be held for all Silkwood and El Arish Parishioners, their family and their friends **following the 6:00pm Saturday night Mass on Saturday 16th November.** This is always a great night of community spirit, great music and great food! Families are asked to bring a plate to share. We hope you can join us for this celebration.

Playgroup/Kindy/Prep/Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party

We invite all families of these children to come and celebrate at our end of year party on **Friday 29th November 9am to 11:00am** in the school under covered area. Word is out that a very special guest will be visiting, so parents please ensure you bring along a wrapped book for the big fellow to hand out to your child. Please remember to mark their name on the outside.





From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jo.

The cane season is in full swing and December looms, bringing with it heat and humidity. It can be a stressful time of year. Managing stress during this time is essential.

Michael Bernard from the 'You Can Do It' foundation (2024) reminds us that our mindset will help us remain resilient in the face of countless stressors at this stage of the school year and highlights several key components.

**YOU
CAN
TOTALLY
DO
THIS**

◆ Self-acceptance is crucial. Don't be overly self-critical. No one is perfect. Accept imperfections as part of the learning process.

◆ Self-compassion helps us with kindness during difficult moments, which reduces the emotional toll of high-pressure situations like challenging student behaviour or critical feedback from others.

◆ An optimistic outlook helps us shift the focus from problems to solutions, enabling us to see setbacks as temporary and surmountable rather than overwhelming.

◆ GRIT, the passion and perseverance to pursue long-term goals, enables us to stay committed to our mission, even when faced with excessive workloads or lack of support. This long-term dedication fuels our ability to push through challenges, not out of sheer endurance but purpose-driven motivation.

◆ Finally, a growth mindset empowers us to view difficulties as opportunities for development. Instead of seeing these moments as signs that we'll never get on top of these problems and obstacles, we can see them as a natural part of growing personally and professionally. For further information and guidance on growth mindset visit: <https://positivepsychology.com/growth-mindset-for-kids/>

For further guidance, you are welcome to discuss with the School Counsellor how to develop coping skills to support such a mindset so you can finish the school year on a high note, ready to celebrate the many accomplishments made and recharge for the year ahead.

Warm regards, Miss Jo

Kindy News



Crafting! Our Kindergarten has a well-stocked craft area. We ensure this area has lots of different resources for the children to be creative and imaginative with. Paper, cardboard, pencils, scissors, paint, glue, magazines, boxes, lids, corks, patty pans, feathers; all sorts of interesting items that can spark ideas and planning in the children's minds. Within this play there are so



many learning and development benefits. The children can develop skills in fine motor, early numeracy and literacy, critical thinking, resilience, social interactions, communication, self-expression, problem solving, bilateral coordination and spatial reasoning! We also use this space to reinforce our sustainability teachings, as the children reuse cleaned items from their lunchboxes – like yogurt containers and bring in things from home that may be headed for the bin.



At the moment we are seeing a lot of interest in transportation emerging in the craft area. The children have created an ambulance, train tracks, space suits, space shuttles, a boat and of course a harvester!

We'd like to offer a big thank you to Margaret Fontana who brought in her guinea pigs to show the Kindergarten group. At meal times the children sort food scraps for our worm farm, and for Margaret's animals. Meeting some of the lovely creatures that eat our scraps was a great reminder of why we do



this.

Enquires call: 42 52 5755 Mobile: 0439 924 736

Email: kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au

Web: www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/

Regards,

Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco

Come join us

ENROL ONLINE

FOR 2025



Buses from Mission Beach, El Arish, Kurrimine Beach, Silkwood & Japoonvale

Continued school fee reductions for 2025
\$150/Term

www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au

**QUALITY
AFFORDABLE
EDUCATION FOR
YOUR CHILD**

Call 4065 9530



St John's is a **welcoming community** committed to providing **every student** with a **world class education** enriched by a lived encounter with the **Catholic faith**. We provide an environment which enables students to succeed now, for the future.

St John's is **affordable for all families!** Our fees of **\$150 per term in 2025**, will ensure all families wishing to access a Catholic Education will be catered for.

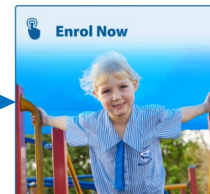
Buses collect children from Mission Beach, El Arish, Kurrimine Beach, Silkwood, No. 4 Branch and Walter Lever Estate areas.

Not Catholic? Don't worry, **you don't have to be Catholic to access a Catholic Education.**

Come in and see what St John's has to offer!

Call 4065 9530 or visit our website to complete an online enrolment.

Look for this button on our website.



www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au/enrol

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, SILKWOOD
Always Reaching for New Heights

Pre-Prep Transition Days

Tuesday 19th November
9:00am - 10:45am

Tuesday 3rd December
9:00am - 10:45am

Sign your child into school at the office. We will sign them back into the Kindy when our morning is done; or you can collect your child at the office at 10:45am

What to bring

- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Morning tea

All El Arish & Silkwood Parishioners and their families are welcome to
Join us for our

End of Year Celebrations Silkwood & El Arish Parishes

Saturday
16th November, 2024
following the Silkwood 6:00pm Mass in the Hall

COME AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH A SHARED MEAL, MUSIC, DANCING AND SPOT PRIZES